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Press Release

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**ATTORNEY GENERAL DARRELL MCGRAW
ANNOUNCES \$14,300 PAYMENT TO COVENANT HOUSE
FOR PRESCRIPTION DRUGS**

Attorney General Darrell McGraw today announced that Covenant House will receive \$14,300 as part of a previous consumer protection settlement with CVS. Under the settlement, the money is required to be used to benefit low-income, disabled or elderly consumers of prescription medications. Covenant House will use these funds for its Health Access Program, which provides health care to the homeless, the poor, and the underserved.

The State received the money in settlement of a multi-state investigation into unfair and deceptive billing practices of CVS. The settlement resolved allegations that CVS initially charged consumers the full amount of prescriptions that were not completely filled due to insufficient inventory and then retained the excess payment if consumers did not return to pick up the balance of the prescriptions at a later date.

This is the second settlement involving CVS's billing practices. During April 2001, following an investigation by the Department of Justice and the National Association of Medicaid Fraud Units, CVS agreed to settle claims that it billed federal and state health care programs for quantities of medication that exceeded the amounts actually given to consumers.

Under the settlement, which was announced earlier this year, CVS was required to develop and implement pharmacy billing policies designed to prevent consumers from being billed for medication until the entire amount prescribed has been dispensed and to ensure future compliance with the State's consumer protection laws. "We are pleased to be able to use this money to benefit some of the people of West Virginia who need it most," said Attorney General McGraw.

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